

Girard City Council advances CDBG grant application for firefighter gear, provides updates on infrastructure projects

BY PHILIP STEVENS
HOMETOWN GIRARD

►► The Girard City Council met Monday evening to address a range of topics, from grant applications to infrastructure updates and personnel matters.

The council opened the meeting by approving the agenda and consent agenda, which included payments totaling \$471,909.40. Expenditures over \$10,000 included: Ryan Insurance (Insurance coverage 2025/2026) for \$161,863.00; Girard Library (Appropriations, Library Board) for \$63,444.14; Koppers (Pole K7 Hwy Project) for \$15,879.26; PWWSO#11 (Gallons Water Purchased) for \$23,407.68; Mammoth (Girard Athletic Complex Lights) for \$134,715.00; and Custom Products (Street Signs) for \$11,910.75. The council also approved the May 19 minutes, and the appointment of Derick Burke as Assistant Chief of Police at \$24 per hour, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment requirements. Also included in the consent agenda, the council accepted the resignation of Chris Paulie effective immediately.

A key focus of the meeting was a public hearing for a Community

Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Brytnée Kepley of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) presented details of the city's request for \$72,000 in grant funding to purchase safety equipment for the city fire department. The \$80,000 project will provide 18 sets of firefighting gear, including bunker coats, bunker pants, boots, and flash hoods, with the city contributing \$8,000 in matching funds from the public safety sales tax and \$7,000 in administrative costs. No public comments were made during the hearing.

Following the hearing, the council unanimously approved three related actions. Resolution 2025-15 certified legal authority to apply for the CDBG small facilities grant, Resolution 2025-16 assured ongoing funds for maintenance of the equipment (expected cost is \$8,000 annually), and authorization for the mayor to sign all CDBG application forms.

City Administrator Johanna O'Brien provided detailed updates on several ongoing projects, including: The USDA/Kansas Water Office water project, with bid openings scheduled for July 15 and construction hoped to begin by fall.

The solar energy project, with financing arrangements being developed to preserve federal tax credits tied to timely construction starts.

The North Highway 7 (CCLIP) concrete paving project and KDOT Transportation Alternatives sidewalk project (Phase 2), both awaiting final designs before bidding.

The nearly complete CDBG sidewalk project and preparations for installation of new CAT generators this summer.

The council tabled updates to the city's personnel policy to allow further review before the next meeting.

In other business, the council approved a partial road closure on Osage Street between the Girard Public Library parking lot and the stop sign on Saturday, June 21, from noon to 10 p.m. for a private event. O'Brien explained that it is for a party between her house and a neighbor's house. She expects lots of children moving between the homes and is requesting the road closure for safety. Access to the Library parking lot and the alleyway on the east side will remain open.

The council also approved the May 2025 judge's report, showing total collections

of \$2,262.83, with \$665.50 to the city.

Two executive sessions were held. The first, on employee status and pay, resulted in approval of a new part-time pay scale for the fire department, though the new rates were not shared during the meeting. The second, which required two 10-minute sessions, addressed a residential sewer utility issue. The council also authorized Deputy City Clerk Heather Ryan to apply for a city credit card with a limit of \$51,000.

In governing body comments, Council Member Lanessa Arthur reminded residents to enjoy local facilities and support businesses, noting that local spending helps fund public safety and infrastructure. She also urged caution as children are out during summer break. Council Member Lucas Stansbury thanked city staff and praised the refreshed splash pad at the pool. Council Member Dennis Everett commended the city's persistence in advancing the water project. Council President Darrell Westhoff had no comments. Mayor Mickey Pyle echoed thanks to the staff and encouraged safe driving.

The meeting concluded with adjournment following these remarks.

CITY OF GIRARD - INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS / AS OF JUNE 16, 2025

| Project Name | Scope or Description | Current Status | Next Steps |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| USDA/KWO | Water lines and water treatment plant; stainless steel mile replacement | Stainless steel mile out to bid; preparing USDA bid package | Bid opening July 15; finalize bids for remaining project |
| Solar ITC | 2 MW community solar for peak time generation and capacity | Agreement signed with developer; tax credits approved | Finalize financing; begin construction |
| CCLIP | Concrete pavement from 4-way stop to North City limits | Engineering design phase | Complete design; submit for KDOT approval; bid project |
| CDBG Sidewalks | Phase I of Pathways Sidewalk Projects (St. John, Orange, Osage) | Nearly complete | Final inspection and project close-out |
| CDBG Small Community Facilities | 18 sets of firefighter gear | Second round of application stage | Submit final paperwork; await grant award decision |
| KDOT TA | Phase II of Pathways Sidewalk Projects (Prairie, Forest, St. John) | Plans sent to KDOT for review and field check | Address KDOT comments; bid project |
| CAT Generator | Powerplant additional generation and capacity | Agreement signed; preparing to pour concrete pad | Pad construction; generator delivery and installation |

Events through June 27



Summer Reading is happening now! Readers continue tracking your reading! Stop in and get stocked up on books to read! Final day to track reading for Summer 2025 is Monday, July 14th!

~ Ages 7 & Under track by minutes read
~ All other ages track by pages read

Children's Ages 7 & Under Summer Program - Join us for summer programs for Ages 7 & Under on **Monday, June 23rd at 10:00 am; or Tuesday, June 24th at 10:00 am; 1:30 pm; or 3:30 pm.** Our theme this year is "Color Our World," so we will have more colorful stories to enjoy. This week's activity will be creating colorful abstract art!

Children's Ages 8-11 Summer Program - Join us for summer programs for Ages 8-11 on **Thursday, June 26th at 10:00 am; or 1:30 pm.** Create colorful paper toy called a Flexangle! Decorate and make your own! *Those that have finished 5th Grade may participate in the Children's Program, Young Adult Program, or both.*

Young Adult Summer Program - Join us for summer programs for Grades 6th-12th on **Wednesday, June 25th at 12:30 pm.** Have fun making slime! *Those that have finished 5th Grade may participate in the Children's Program, Young Adult Program, or both.*

Adult Summer Program - Join us for an evening of crafting fun on **Tuesday, June 24th at 5:15 pm!** We will be making Balloon Smash Art!

Grab & Go Summer Meal Program - Grab-n-Go Meal Boxes available to kids ages 18 and younger at no cost. Every Wednesday in June & July from 11:30am-12:30pm.

~ Same as in past years~ Child must be PRESENT to receive a box or the parent/guardian MUST have completed the "Parent/Guardian Meal Pick up approval" form before pick up.

~ A "Parent/Guardian Meal Pick up Approval" form CAN ONLY BE COMPLETED WHEN THE PARENT/GUARDIAN AND THE CHILD(REN) ARE AT THE SITE TOGETHER. (This can be done anytime that the library is open.)

****Absolutely NO grab-n-go boxes can be served on any other day or time. Only on Wednesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm in June & July.**

~ Failure to adhere to this distribution rule can result in the Girard Public Library losing the program.

~ Child care facilities cannot pick up meals for the children in their care.

Scholastic Book Fair - Stop by the library from **June 12th - June 26th** to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair! Something for everyone! All purchase benefit Girard Public Library - we will receive a percentage of sales to purchase books directly from the book fair for the library! Help us reach our goal so we can add even more books to our shelves!

Lego Night - Join us for some Lego building fun on **Monday, June 23rd at 4:45 pm!** Open to all ages!

Library Board Meeting - Girard Public Library will have the next monthly board meeting on **Tuesday, June 24th at 5:30 pm.** Meetings are open to the public.



Library Hours

- Monday: 9:30 am - 7:00 pm
- Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
- Friday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Sunday: Closed

For New Items Recently Added to the Library

See **"GIRARD PUBLIC LIBRARY CALENDAR"** Page 4.

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